

CLAIMS

1. A conjugate comprising:

(a) a first region comprising the homeodomain of antennapedia or a functional variant thereof; and

5 (b) a second region not naturally associated with the first region; and wherein at least the first region is non-denatured.

2. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the first and second regions are associated via a disulfide bond.

10 3. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 1, in the form of a fusion protein.

4. ^{The} A conjugate according to ~~any preceding claim~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein the second region comprises a protein of at least 100 amino acids.

15 5. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 4, wherein the second region is a functional or regulatory protein.

6. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 4, wherein the second region is an antigen.

7. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 4, wherein the second region is a DNA binding domain.

8. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the second region further comprises an NOI.

9. ^{The} A conjugate according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the second region comprises an NOI.

25 10. ^{A nucleic acid} ~~Nucleic acid~~ encoding ^a conjugate according to ~~any preceding claim~~ ^{claim 1}.

11. An expression vector, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10, operably linked to a promoter.

12. A host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 11.

30 13. A method for preparing a conjugate according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ ^{claim 1}, comprising:

(i) culturing a host cell according to claim 12 under conditions which provide for the expression of the conjugate within the host cell; and

35 (ii) recovering the conjugate by affinity purification under non-denaturing conditions.

- The*
 14. ~~A~~ method according to claim 13, wherein the conjugate comprises an amino acid tail that binds to an immobilised substrate.
- 5 15. A conjugate prepared according to the method of claim 13 or claim 14. ~~A~~
- A*
 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9 or claim 15~~, in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier. *claim 1*
- A*
 10 17. ~~The~~ A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16, in the form of a vaccine. *D*
18. Use of the conjugate of any one of claims 1 to 9 or claim 15, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of cancer, a genetic disease and bacterial or viral infection. *claim 1*
- 15 19. ~~The~~ A conjugate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9 or claim 15~~, for use in an expression system.

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